

Small Group Curriculum • Week 4 • Genesis 2 • UNALONE

UNALONE • Genesis 2

Sunday our Lead Pastor, Ryan, gave a God honoring and biblically sound sermon on Genesis 2:18-24 disseminating the concepts that the world tells us about love, sex and marriage (cue the awkward smiles and flashbacks to middle school sex ed). We learned about God's intent for marriage and realistic expectations in following through with such a commitment, the intimacy to be experienced by the one flesh union designed by God, and the action of growing in love which strengthens all.

REMINDERS

- Interested in being baptized the Sunday after Easter? Sign up at <https://awakeningchurch.com/events/baptisms/>
- Please consider signing up for a one-time-serve opportunity for Easter Weekend at: <https://awakeningchurch.com/events/one-time-serve/>

Past Session Check-In:

- Take a moment and review the application from your last discussion. Ask the group where they were challenged, if they made any commitment for change and/or action, and if they followed through with their decision.

ICEBREAKER

Two-part question:

- Go around and share about your first crush. How did they make you feel? What was it about them that caught your attention?
- Let's go a little deeper, what was the first time you processed that you were loved? Was it by a parent, a significant other, perhaps it was the love of God? How did this realization affect you?

INTRODUCTION

Status, pleasure and satisfaction are the drivers by which we measure our lives by the standards of the western world. This standard is the same whether your ideal is two cars in the driveway, a white picket fence with a dog with a loving family at home with a ribeye steak dinner every night, or to seek enlightenment through wisdom and meditation with an approach towards free love for relationships and to be nourished by the nectar of the universe. What it all boils down to is that we have a bent to attain that which brings physical, social, or emotional highs.

Scripture tells us that Jesus came to give us a new perspective concerning all aspects of life:

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

AWAKENING

No matter what it is you are pursuing in life, we must pause and take notice that the words of Jesus point out that since it is His will that we have life to the full, the logic flows that if we are not pursuing life within His design, then we are living in a state of lack. If we are to find wholeness despite what we do or do not have, then we must humbly submit our own aspirations to the Lord to discover His will for us.

PREPARATION

Love, sex and marriage are all good things. This is understandable on a fundamental level, but when it comes to discussing such things it can become incredibly difficult to find the words to express what we are truly feeling and thinking. The reality is that we have an enemy that seeks to steal, kill and destroy the things that God has deemed good, especially for His image bearers. This isn't a discussion about how the world is falling apart and the moral fiber of society is dwindling. So, before you go throwing bricks and accusations about others or general people groups, understand that this exercise is designed to be personal and internally reflective. Pause for a moment and in silence invite the Holy Spirit to flip the lens by which you view the world to a mirror. (Give 1-2 mins for your group to adjust to this reflection time in the Spirit)

Pray: Heavenly Father, we come before you by the name of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. May we humble ourselves to your will and like David prayed, would you search our hearts oh God and know our anxious thoughts. If you find any offense within us, we pray you remove it and lead us in your ways everlasting. Amen (Ref Psalm 139:23-24)

For all have failed and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23), and regarding these topics, all of us have adopted some distorted view of God's intended function and purpose. When Love is distorted, it goes from being a selfless action to a selfish emotion. A distorted view of sex changes from God's design for one flesh union of true intimacy and vulnerability into personal conquest and insatiable thirst. When marriage is distorted it goes from covenant and selfless devotion to a status symbol that is self-serving. Throughout life, if we find dissatisfaction in any of these areas in our lives, it is revealing that there is some element that we have not submitted over to Christ.

DISCUSSION

- If the sacrifice of Jesus is the embodiment of what love looks like, how does that line up with the disillusionment you hold about the feeling of love?
- What views were you raised to have about sex or what precepts did you develop on your own about it?
- Humans are sexual beings. We are also emotional and spiritual beings. Why is it that society has become obsessed with just the sexual side of our humanity? What does that do to our understanding of who we are and what we were made for?
- It is very easy to feel like we are damaged beyond repair because of the sins we have made or sins done against us in relationships. What does God say about who we are in Him? Read 2 Cor 5:17

A W A K E N I N G

- Why is it so important that one enter into a marriage as a whole, fully fulfilled person in Christ?
- Why does Paul make such a steeper call in marriage for husbands? Read Eph 5:22-33
- The intent of Jesus is that we would have life to the full. We know that when we submit areas of our life to the Lord, He breathes new life into them in ways we cannot comprehend. There is a pattern following baptism in the process of sanctification. What of these areas do you need to put to death so that God can breathe new life over you?

APPLICATION

- These topics can be really heavy and difficult to navigate. Share with someone in your group an area that you need help walking through. It can be finding peace in singleness, healing after a breakup, pride or unforgiveness in your marriage, issues surrounding lust or anything in between. God made us to be communal. We should not be isolated in walking through the most difficult areas of our lives. Isolation is actually what the enemy wants. Do not let that happen and claim the victory you already have in Jesus!
- We have a really great pastoral team who would love to walk with you and pray with you in your areas of struggle. If there is something you feel you can't share in your group or you just need extra counseling, reach out to your pastors for help. Go to the Awakening homepage and click on resources. Scroll down to "care request" and fill out the form requesting prayer, counseling or whatever else you need. The church is more than a Sunday meeting or a small group. It is meant to be an active community where we all find new life in Christ. Don't deny yourself the new life that Christ wants for you.

PRAYER

God in heaven would you give us perspective and understanding of your design for humanity. Help us to understand who we are as your image bearers both male and female. May we honor one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, new creations who have been adopted into the royal priesthood by the atoning blood of Jesus. May we not forget that you loved us first and that you have already modeled what it is to love well. May all the areas of our life be enriched by the truth of your love overflowing in our lives. May we find healing in your embrace knowing that there is no height or depth nor angel or demon or power that can separate us from the love of God. In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR GROUP TO CONSIDER

Check out our outreach page at <https://awakeningchurch.com/outreach/> to explore ways your group can volunteer at our biweekly food pantry, support Foster the City, or join the City Team movement.

PASSAGES:

Genesis 2:18-24

A W A K E N I N G

¹⁸ The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

¹⁹ Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³ The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’
for she was taken out of man.”

²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Psalm 139:23-24

²³ Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Romans 3:23

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^[a] The old has gone, the new is here!

Ephesians 5:22-33

²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing^[a] her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”^[b] ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the



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church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.